

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

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5/8/73 EXT 23055

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EA/ ROC - MR. MOSER

S/ S- MR. BARNES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 087913

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, MG

SUBJECT: CALL BY AMBASSADOR SHEN ON ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HUMMEL

1. SUMMARY. ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL MAY 8, ON INSTRUCTIONS, TO CONVEY ROC REGRET THAT TERM " REPUBLIC OF CHINA" NOT USED IN SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPH ON TAIWAN IN PRESIDENT' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT AND TO REQUEST THAT PROPER TERMINOLOGY BE USED IN FUTURE IN OFFICIAL REPORTS. HE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER US RECOGNITION OF MPR IMPENDING, ABOUT DECISION TO FLY NATIONAL FLAGS IN FRONT OF US/ PRC LIAISON OFFICES, AND ABOUT AMBASSADOR BRUCE STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT US LIAISON OFFICE MAY IN TIME BE RAISED TO EMBASSY STATUS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR SHEN STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO VOICE REGRET TO USG REGARDING FAILURE OF PRESIDENT' S REPORT ON FOREIGN POLICY TO REFER TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY ITS PROPER NAME. IN FACT,
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AMBASSADOR NOTED, TERM "ROC" APPEARED ONLY ONCE, IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SHEN ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET REGARDING USE IN REPORT OF TERM "RETAIN" INSTEAD OF "MAINTAIN" IN REFERENCE TO CONTINUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ROC. TERM "MAINTAIN" AMBASSADOR SAID, SEEMED TO IMPLY BILATERAL EFFORT, WHILE "RETAIN" SEEMED TO REFER TO UNILATERAL EFFORT.

3. MR. HUMMEL RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD ATTACH NO SIGNIFICANCE TO FAILURE TO MENTION ROC BY ITS PROPER TITLE IN SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPH IN PRESIDENT'S REPORT. TERM "ROC" WAS, AFTER ALL, USED IN REPORT AND CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC TIES, AND DEFENSE COMMITMENT ALSO REITERATED. IN ADDITION, REPORT SPECIFICALLY STATED ELSEWHERE THAT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE USG WOULD NEVER REPUDIATE ITS PLEDGED WORD NOR BETRAY ANY ALLY. IN ADDITION, MR. HUMMEL REMINDED, TERM "ROC" USED MANY TIMES IN SECRETARY'S REPORT. HE ADDED HE WOULD CONVEY ROC EXPRESSION OF REGRET TO PROPER QUARTERS OF USG. MR. HUMMEL ALSO STATED THAT HE SAW NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TERMS "MAINTAIN" AND "RETAIN".

4. AMBASSADOR SHEN STATED THAT BEFORE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHMENT OF US/ PRC LIAISON OFFICES ISSUED IN FEBRUARY, ROC GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND BY DR. KISSINGER THAT FLAGS WOULD NOT BE FLOWN IN FRONT OF LIAISON OFFICES. AMBASSADOR WISHED TO KNOW WHAT HAD CAUSED THIS APPARENT CHANGE IN POLICY. MR. HUMMEL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DECISION TO FLY FLAGS IN FRONT OF LIAISON OFFICES WAS RECENT ONE AND ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW DECISION ON MATTER HAD BEEN REACHED.

5. AMBASSADOR SHEN INQUIRED WHETHER RECOGNITION OF THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC BY THE US WAS IMPENDING. MR. HUMMEL SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH MONGOLIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO COME TO CONCLUSION IN FEW WEEKS. HE ADDED THAT ROC WOULD BE INFORMED WHEN THERE WAS ANY NEWS TO BE CONVEYED.

6. AMBASSADOR SHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS OF
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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE ON DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON TO EFFECT THAT US LIAISON OFFICE WILL IN TIME BE RAISED TO STATUS OF EMBASSY. MR. HUMMEL READ TEXT OF EXCHANGE THAT PRODUCED PRESS REPORT:

Q: " DO YOU SEE A TIME WHEN THIS MISSION WILL BE

CHANGED INTO AN EMBASSY?

A: " I WOULD ASSUME IN TIME THAT THAT IS A
POSSIBILITY." AMBASSADOR SHEN INQUIRED WHETHER THIS
DID NOT IN FACT IMPLY THAT LIAISON OFFICE WILL BE
RAISED TO STATUS OF EMBASSY. MR. HUMMEL REPLIED
THAT IT DID IMPLY SUCH A POSSIBILITY, IN TIME.

7. IN CLOSING, SHEN SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
REQUEST THAT USG REFER TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY ITS
PROPER TITLE IN ALL FUTURE OFFICIAL REPORTS. MR.
HUMMEL REPLIED THAT OFFICIAL TERMINOLOGY REMAINS
IN CONSTANT DAILY USE BY USG AND CITED NUMBER OF EXAMPLES.

ROGERS

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE087913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LJMOYLE: BDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730541/aaaaiqwx.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980122
Subject: CALL BY AMBASSADOR SHEN ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL
TAGS: PFOR, CH, MG, TW, PFOR, (SHEN, JAMES)
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005